

**UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD**

**OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN**

**MEMORANDUM FOR USIB PRINCIPALS**

**SUBJECT** : Guidelines Governing Disclosures of Classified Intelligence

1. The President has issued a memorandum dated December 21, 1970 entitled "Disclosures of Classified Information and Coordination and Clearance of Official Statements". A copy of this is attached for your information and guidance, as well as a copy of a memorandum I am sending to the other addressees of the President's communication.

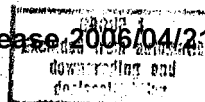
2. The President, noting the statutory responsibilities of the Director of Central Intelligence for the protection of intelligence sources and methods, charged me with providing guidance in this field, especially through the machinery of the intelligence community. In this connection, I would appreciate your giving personal attention to the attached draft guidelines for the intelligence community. I plan to discuss these in executive session at an early meeting of the USIB.

Richard Helms  
Chairman

Atts  
Presidential Memo  
DCI Memo  
"Guidance"

NSC review(s) completed.

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

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December 21, 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR:

The Secretary of State  
The Secretary of Defense  
The Attorney General  
The Director, U.S. Arms Control and  
Disarmament Agency  
The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff  
The Director of Central Intelligence  
The Administrator, National Aeronautics  
and Space Administration

SUBJECT:

Disclosures of Classified Information  
and Coordination and Clearance of  
Official Statements

I am becoming increasingly concerned about the disclosure in public media of classified information bearing upon important aspects of national security, particularly that which tends to jeopardize intelligence sources and methods. Such disclosures present a serious threat to our national interests and I am determined that the practice of releasing such information without proper authorization will be brought to an end.

Executive Order 10501, of December 15, 1953, as amended, established regulations and procedures for safeguarding classified information, while especially sensitive data are protected by special systems of clearances.

I direct that immediate steps be taken within the jurisdiction of each addressee to ensure that existing regulations and procedures

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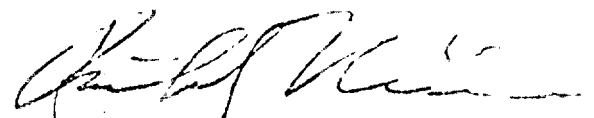
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designed to safeguard classified information be reviewed and strengthened where necessary. These regulations and procedures should assure that only those individuals with a demonstrated "need-to-know" receive classified information and that all recipients are constantly aware of the necessity to protect it from public disclosure. They should provide for an adequate security review of all statements and documents made public on subjects with important security connotations. Further, I wish responsible officials to take firm disciplinary action against individuals under their jurisdiction found responsible for careless or deliberate mishandling of classified information.

The Director of Central Intelligence has the statutory responsibility for the protection of intelligence sources and methods. Accordingly, I shall look to him to provide guidance in this field, especially through the machinery of the intelligence community. I shall expect him to keep me informed of developments and I wish department and agency heads to cooperate fully with him.

I also reaffirm the following instructions which I issued on September 1, 1970 concerning coordination and clearance of public statements and press releases and the necessity for White House clearance of all official communications having policy implications:

- "Public statements and press releases: Prior to release, all public communications on matters of known or potential Presidential interest must be carefully cleared by the White House (Assistant to the President for National Security) for consistency with Presidential policy and for coordination with the departments and agencies who share overlapping interests and responsibilities. Should there be any uncertainty as to Presidential or interdepartmental interest, it will be resolved in favor of clearance."
- "Official communications: All official communications with policy implications must be cleared by the White House. When in doubt, the rule is that messages will be so cleared. This procedure requires close and confidential staff relationships at all levels between the White House and your department as well as among departments."



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